

News –Release #3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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11:30 a.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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WINTER STORM UPDATE AND SAFETY TIPS

With temperatures predicted to remain at or below freezing for the next two to three days, the public is advised to continue to use caution in driving and any outdoor activities.

Even after precipitation stops, roads and sidewalks will remain wet and will become icy as temperatures fall. Those who must travel should be extremely cautious after dark, especially on bridges and overpasses.

Sussex County Emergency Operations Director Joe Thomas and County Executive Robert Stickles remind drivers that sleet and freezing rain in southern Delaware will contribute to the potential for black ice developing on roads and bridges. They ask drivers to restrict travel whenever possible and to anticipate icy surfaces even if ice and snow are not apparent on roadways.

As of 11 a.m., snow had stopped in most parts of the state and the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) reported that work on clearing primary roads was proceeding well. DelDOT representatives in all counties said that most primary roads would be cleared and relatively dry by early afternoon and work would begin on secondary roads.

Some crews might get to tertiary roads by Friday evening, but many would not be cleared until Saturday morning or early afternoon.

By 11 a.m., snow accumulations were as follows:

- Wilmington, 8 inches
- New Castle County, 7 inches
- Kent County, 8 inches
- Sussex County, 1.5-2 inches

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Except for occasional flurries, snow is not expected to continue Friday afternoon and evening. According to the National Weather Service, there is a chance of an additional snow band coming across Delaware in the early afternoon. It is not expected to contribute significantly to the current accumulations. Temperatures are expected to remain in the low 30s during the day and low 20s at night through the weekend.

Delaware Emergency Management Agency Director Jamie Turner said those who absolutely have to drive should give themselves plenty of time to reach destinations and be aware of emergency vehicles and highway equipment on the roads. He reminds people to monitor weather conditions and recommendations on local broadcast media and on the state web site, www.Delaware.gov, Closings and Delays sub-page, and the DEMA web site, www.state.de.us/dema.

The following tips are provided to assist in preventing injury and possible death from the effects of this storm, and winter weather in general:

1. Dress appropriately with head and hands covered if you go outdoors in temperatures below freezing.
2. Take extra precautions and provide shelter, food and water for pets or farm animals.
3. Have a household emergency supply kit, including a supply of drinking water and non-perishable foods. Bottled water or water in containers should be stored in case water and other utilities be disrupted.
4. Ensure that flashlights and a battery-powered radio are in good working order. Have plenty of batteries. Use of candles and other open-flame light sources is not recommended.
5. Avoid over-exertion. Cold weather puts a strain on the heart, even without exercise. Many winter deaths occur from over-exertion while shoveling heavy snow or pushing cars stuck in snow.
6. Check on neighbors and relatives during cold waves and winter storms. The elderly are especially susceptible to hypothermia and falls on icy surfaces.
7. If you lose power or other utilities, do not call 911. Use a customer service number for information.
8. As temperatures remain below freezing, take precautions to keep pipes from freezing. Contact your plumber or hardware dealer for recommendations of the best measures to protect or thaw pipes.

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